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ET DOCUMENTALISTES AGRICOLES

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Vol.

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# THE LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOIL FERTILITY AT GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

BY

J. A. VAN DER LOEFF (LIBRARIAN)

## *History*

When writing about the library of a scientific institute it is first necessary to tell something of the history of the institute itself.

## *State Agricultural Experimental Station*

The Institute at Groningen was founded in 1890 as a 'Rijkslandbouwproefstation' (State Agricultural Experimental Station) together with two other ones in Hoorn and Breda, the latter being transferred later to Goes; and in 1898 another one was founded in Maastricht. All were concerned with the control of fertilizers and feeding—stuffs in the different parts of the Netherlands. In addition they found time for general agricultural research.

These were not, however, the first experimental stations in the Netherlands, for one already existed in Wageningen founded in 1877 as a branch of the State Agricultural School there.

## *State Agricultural Experimental Station for arable crops and grassland*

As the volume of control work increased there was insufficient time for other research and in 1916 the programme was rearranged so that some stations dealt only with control while others handled research. To this end the Groningen station undertook research into arable crops and grassland, while dairy produce and cattle feeding became the concern of the station at Hoorn.

The station at Groningen was sub-divided into five loosely interdependent sections, each under its own director, covering culture on clay soils, culture on sandy soils and peat, soil chemistry, botany and microbiology, the station as a whole being controlled by a board composed of the five section directors.

## *Institute for Soil Research*

In 1926 the 'Soil Chemistry' Section became self-supporting under the title of 'Bodemkundig Instituut' (Institute for Soil Research). However, the system of several independent sections proved to be

inefficient, so that in 1930 these were integrated under one Director-in-Chief.

#### *State Agricultural Experimental Station and Institute for Soil Research*

In 1939 the Director of the Institute for Soil Research resigned and the directorship was taken over by the Director-in-Chief; at the same time the name of the institute was changed to 'State Agricultural Experimental Station and Institute for Soil Research'.

In the same year part of the research work was transferred to Wageningen, where the 'Centraal Instituut voor Landbouwkundig Onderzoek' or C.I.L.O. (Central Institute for Agricultural Research) was founded. This station was primarily for research into the culture of arable crops and grassland, while the station at Groningen was charged with research on soil.

#### *National Council for Applied Scientific Research*

In 1945 the latter station, was handed over to the 'Centrale Organisatie T.N.O.' (Central National Council for Applied Scientific Research in the Netherlands) and became part of the 'Landbouw Organisatie T.N.O.' (National Council for Agricultural Research). The station was renamed 'Landbouwproefstation en Bodemkundig Instituut T.N.O.' (Agricultural Experimental Station and Institute for Soil Research T.N.O.).

#### *Institute for Soil Fertility*

The last alteration took place at the beginning of this year (1957), when the station became an independent ministerial foundation connected to T.N.O. through membership of the National Board of Agricultural Research. At the same time the section for hydrology was transferred to Wageningen where a new Institute for Land Improvement and Water Management was founded.

The station at Groningen was renamed 'Instituut voor Bodemvruchtbaarheid' (Institute for Soil Fertility). Its task is to study the soil and soil fertility for purposes both of agriculture and of horticulture as well.

#### *The library*

All the foregoing changes in the constitution of the institute are reflected in its library. At first a single small library served the whole station, but from 1916 to 1930 each section had its own books and periodicals, and after 1926 the newly founded Institute for Soil Research had its own library. In 1935 a central catalogue of books



and periodicals of the four sections of the experimental station was drawn up and this arrangement lasted until 1946 when the libraries of the station and the Institute of Soil Research were merged into a single unit and centralized. Today only the botanical and microbiological sections carry anything like a permanent stock of books and periodicals on their own subjects.

At the time of the merger a new catalogue was started. The old catalogue consists of two parts—alphabetical and systematic with a simple subject index, while the new systematic catalogue uses U.D.C. In both catalogues the cards are filed chronologically, the recent ones being at the end.

In 1939 and 1957 respectively some of the books and periodicals on arable crops and grassland and on reclamation and hydrology were transferred to the new institutes in Wageningen, but in the future it will be necessary to pay more attention to literature on horticulture.

Despite this movement of books the library continued to expand and today contains 320 shelf-metres (1040 feet) of stock, with an annual addition of 10 meters (33 feet) of shelving, as well as 229 current periodicals.

Twice a month a typed list of the principal additions is prepared, and as the institute has three buildings in different parts of the town the new literature has to be circulated. On return, having already been catalogued, it is available on loan.

The library collects the latest agricultural publications, more especially on soil fertility, but also on chemistry, botany and other allied sciences useful in research. These are acquired not only by purchase, but also by gift and exchange. The library exchanges material with many scientific institutes in the Netherlands and abroad, therefore an annual list of the papers of the institute is prepared and sent to institutes and others in the Netherlands in Dutch (450) and to other countries in English (300). The library also lends books and periodicals, the number varying between 3000 and 5000 a year, and in some cases more owing to special documentation by members of the staff of the institute.

A quarter of this number has to be borrowed both from other libraries in the Netherlands and from other countries. The lenders in this exchange scheme are the 30 Scientists plus several technical officers of the staff of the institute of over 250. Occasionally material is loaned to other libraries and institutes.

There is a collection of more than 1700 papers published by members of the staff from 1890 to the present day; a special catalogue of these is being built up, as also of the collection of typed and mimeographed reports by staff members.

A start has also been made on a collection of microcards, micro-

films and filmstrips. It is not possible to project these at the institute, but a reader for microcards and microfilm called 'Kangeroo' (a French apparatus) is available. Photocopying is also possible.

The use of Uniterms by means of punched cards (Batten-Cordonnier system) or with a special card is planned, beginning with certain special collections.

The library staff consists of the following members: one librarian (member of the scientific staff of the institute), one library assistant, one agricultural assistant (mainly concerned with documentation) and one typist. In addition there is one member of the scientific staff engaged on documentation in specialized subjects (e.g. microelements). The whole unit is called 'Library and Documentation Section'.

The library is also open to other introduced persons such as university students in chemistry and biology who are studying special agricultural subjects, and pupils on library courses who can come here during their terms of probation.



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## THE CENTRAL LIBRARY OF THE CEYLON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BY

H. T. P. SAMARASEKERA (PERADENIYA)

This Library can trace its origin as far back as 1810, with the small collection of Dr. Alexander Moon, first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, as its nucleus. Successive Directors, in particular Dr. Thwaites and Dr. J. C. Willis, added many important works on systematic botany and mycology.

The first printed Catalogue was prepared in 1900 by Mrs. J. C. Willis, the first Librarian. With the formation of the Department of Agriculture, the Library was transferred to its present Headquarters in Peradeniya, and now comprises some thirty thousand volumes housed in the main building, with individual reference libraries in the various research Divisions of the Department.

Thanks to the indefatigable efforts of earlier librarians, long runs of many precious periodicals have been acquired: complete sets of Saccharo's *Sylloge Fungorum*, the *Annals of Botany*, *Curtis' Botanical Magazine*, the *Botanical Gazette*, to name only a few. Every effort is being made, as funds permit, to complete sets of periodicals, wherever possible.

This Library is primarily for the use of the Department of Agriculture. Other Government Departments and Research Institutes are frequent users. The general public are admitted at the Director's discretion. The University of Ceylon, which is next door to the Library, makes extensive use of its volumes.

Classification is by the Universal Decimal System, and author & subject Indexes are maintained. Nearly all abstracting periodicals on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and allied sciences in the English language are received. The annual budget for the purchase of books and periodicals is approximately Rs. 20,000. More than two hundred journals are subscribed to, and over a thousand are received in exchange for the *Tropical Agriculturist*.

Heavy post-war purchases have so increased pressure on shelf space as to call attention to the urgent need for expansion. The projected Central Research Station, a gift of the American Government, will reserve one wing of its headquarters building for the Library.

In a subsequent communication it is hoped to give a detailed list of periodicals housed, for the guidance of research workers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(From the Vice-President of IAALD)

Sir,

Vienna, 18 February 1957

The 'Reflections on an agricultural economics abstracting service' published in the last issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* was certainly a very welcome and timely contribution to a subject which has interested me for many years. It is most gratifying that this note comes from a man like Dr. Frykholm who is an exceptionally well informed expert on the present status of international bibliography in agriculture and allied subjects. If he calls our attention to a serious gap in the somewhat unbalanced system of agricultural bibliography and abstracting services, I am sure he has every good reason to do so.

What impressed me while reading Dr. Frykholm's note, was his somewhat pessimistic attitude. Personally, I am a little more hopeful as to the outlook for the future. I agree with Dr. Frykholm that an abstracting service such as the excellent ones published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux is difficult to establish. There is no doubt about the value and the wealth of the material to be included in such an abstracting journal. But it is probably true that short informative summaries of papers and articles of an economic nature are more difficult to compile than abstracts on technical subjects. Perhaps they are also less useful, because they may relieve the user to a lesser degree from the necessity of locating and reading the original. It is true that if you ask ten scholars or professors in our field whether they prefer abstracts or simple lists of titles, nine of them at least will favour abstracts. But if we could explain to them the much higher expenses involved in a good comprehensive abstracting service, the unavoidable delay in publishing it and the difficulty already mentioned of providing good summaries of originals covering the vaguer and more evasive economic and social subjects, I am sure they would agree that a well organized and classified title bibliography would not be a bad solution after all. Certainly the ideal would be a double coverage of the field both by a title bibliography and by abstracts. But since for the moment prospects of establishing an abstracting service of this kind are not very bright, it seems to me advisable and quite possible to envisage as an immediate practical goal a title bibliography, or rather what our French colleagues call a 'bibliographie parlante', that is, one which adds to the pure title references short explanations or contents notes without

resorting to an expensive co-operative system of abstractors and reviewers.

I should like to draw your attention to the *International Bibliography of Agricultural Economics* which was published by the former International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, between 1933 and 1946. It was merely a classified title list and certainly not free from imperfections. But it covered the subject fairly fully and I know for certain that many an agricultural economist who used it regretted the cessation of this quarterly. I know that many people believe that the current compilation of a title bibliography of that kind is a rather expensive undertaking. My own experience is that it is not, provided that the service is well organized, properly staffed and combined with the current work of a good large library of international scope. Under such circumstances a part-time editor, one or two able secretaries and a few occasional contributors from countries using less known languages ought to be sufficient. Considering the rapid expansion of the interest in agricultural economics and sociology and related topics like agrarian legislation, history, co-operation and many others all over the world, and considering the existence of active international and national associations of agricultural economists, it should not be too difficult to find a world-wide clientèle interested in the revival of an agricultural economics bibliography similar to the one formerly published by the International Institute of Agriculture.

I firmly believe this subject deserves the close attention of IAALD and I am sure we should be missing a good opportunity of rendering a real service to the agricultural world if we did not mobilize all our forces in order to bring a project of this kind to fruition.

Yours etc.

Sigmund v. Frauendorfer

P.S. You may remember that I published a few years ago a detailed article on this subject in *Agrarwirtschaft* (Hannover), 3, Hft 10 (Oct. 1954) under the title of 'Die Dokumentation der Agrarwirtschaftslehre'. Some readers of our *Quarterly Bulletin* may be interested in consulting this article.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS

The first Annual Report (for the year ending 15 September 1956) of IAALD has appeared in *Review of documentation* (The Hague), 23 (1956), page 150.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NEWS

### NEW PERIODICALS

(also Changes of Title, and Cessations)  
from January 1955 onwards

#### Abstract Journals and Periodical Bibliographies

- British abstracts of medical sciences. London. *Ceased with 4* (1956).  
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## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

A Symposium on the Cost of Operating Agricultural Machinery in the Tropics. The symposium will consist of six articles on the economic aspect of agricultural mechanization under difficult conditions in Colonial Territories, and is in preparation by H. M. Stationery Office for the Colonial Office, London.

Tetrahedron: the international journal of organic chemistry. Pergamon Press, 4-5 Fitzroy Square, London W.1. Quarterly; 4 issues per volume. First issue expected March 1957. Annual subscriptions: Institutional, £6 or \$17; individuals, £3.10s.Od. or \$9.80.

A new forestry abstract journal:

Members of the Forest Faculties or Departments of the Universities of the German language group (Eberswalde, Freiburg, Hann.-Münden, München, Tharandt, Wien und Zürich), the President of the German Union of Forest Research Organisations (Deutscher Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten), members of the Federal Forestry Research Institute (Bundesforschungsanstalt für Forst- und Holzwirtschaft, Reinbek), and authorities of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten, Bonn) decided (31 January 1957) to inaugurate a forest abstracts journal in German.

This periodical will contain about 1000 abstracts per year from the scientific literature of forestry and wood from all over the world; it will be issued quarterly in about 120 pages (DIN A 5, 148 mm x 210 mm), the first number being published early in the summer of 1957.

Authorized members of the Forest Faculties of the German language group will report upon the German language literature, and collaborators in the Federal Forestry Research Institute upon the non-German language literature. The editorial board consists of members of the above-mentioned institutions; the editor is at the Federal Forestry Research Institute, Reinbek.

Information can be obtained from the Bundesforschungsanstalt für Forst- und Holzwirtschaft, Schloss Reinbek/Bezirk Hamburg, Germany.

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### EXCHANGE: OFFERS & REQUESTS

The Director, Centrum voor Landbouwdocumentatie, General Foulkesweg 1A, Wageningen, offers copies of the following bibliographical lists recently compiled (numbers of references given in brackets):

- Rice quality measurements (13)
- Plastic as glass-substitute in greenhouses (20)
- Feeding of minks (27)
- Agriculture in Finland (28)
- Agricultural economics of tropical peasant farming (54)
- Methods of preparing granular fertilizers (23)
- Ion absorption by the plant in a saline soil (Dutch literature) (16)
- Productivity in agriculture in tropical and subtropical areas (32)
- The care of Laboratory animals (14)
- Silo buildings for potatoes and forage crops (51)
- Pulses; breeding and seed production (11)
- Vegetable growing (18)
- Sex determination in spinach (44)

The Librarian, Library of Agriculture, University of Helsinki, Hallitusk. 3 A, Helsinki, Finland requires:

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Transactions of the Dokuchaev Soil Institute. Moscow. 25(1947), 33 & 34(1950), 38(1951), 41(1953) 45(1954), 47(1955), 49(1956).

## INSTITUTIONS & INDIVIDUALS

The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists has announced the establishment of the Harvey Wiley award for analytic methods. The award honours the memory of the founder of the

Federal pure food and drug laws, who was also one of the founders of the association. The award (\$500.00) will be presented annually to the scientist or group of scientists who make an outstanding contribution to development of methods of analysis of foods, cosmetics, drugs, feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and soil as well as for methods in general analytical chemistry. Recipient need not be a member of the association.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden has acquired a 223 acre woodland tract at Kitchawan, N.Y. to be used as a field station for research. [*Plant science bulletin*, 3(1957), 7].

C.O.R.E.S.T.A. Centre de Co-operation pour les Recherches Scientifiques relatives au Tabac. This association was formed at the First International Scientific Tobacco Congress, Paris, September 1956. Headquarters: 53 Quai d'Orsay, Paris 7.

International Agricultural Study Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands: Four different programmes have been devised, which aim at imparting agricultural instruction in the way that best suits the needs of the individual student from abroad.

- A. Instruction during a 'qualifying' period, to prepare students to follow a normal course of study at the Agricultural University, leading to the degree of 'Landbouwkundig Ingenieur' (M.Sc.).
- B. Specialisation in one or more branches in the field of agriculture, horticulture or forestry.
- C. Instruction at the College for Tropical Agriculture at Deventer, leading to a degree.
- D. Participation in annual summerschools on specific subjects. Anyone who would like to take advantage of the possibilities of further study offered by this Centre is invited to write to: The Secretary of the International Agricultural Study Centre, 32 Prof. Ritzema Bosweg, Wageningen - the Netherlands.

New York Botanical Garden recently dedicated a new one-million dollar laboratory which contains 32 research rooms with controls of light, temperature and humidity and which will be used for research in plant nutrition and propagation, plant diseases, antibiotics and antiviral substances, etc. [*Plant science bulletin*, 3(1957), 7].

Kenya. Agricultural Department. Change of address. The new address is: P.O. Box 30028, Nairobi, Kenya.



New Zealand Soil Bureau. A short history. From: *New Zealand journal of agriculture*, October 1955. Pp. 11.

Société Fouad I d'Entomologie changed its name back to Société Entomologique d'Égypte in 1955.

Sir E. John Russell, the agricultural scientist, whose work is known throughout the world, has produced his memoirs. Published last year by Allen & Unwin, London (price 25 shillings) under the title *The Land called me*, they are of great interest and importance to all who are concerned with agricultural science, whether farmers, research workers, historians or librarians. The book has been widely reviewed, so that it is not necessary to do more here than remind our members of the bibliographical details which will enable them to obtain it.

#### FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES

*Agricultural Economics*. Canadian Agricultural Economics Society. Vancouver, 24-27 June 1957.

*Agricultural Production*. 9th General Assembly, International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Lafayette, Ind., 20-31 May 1957. I.F.A.P., 712 Jackson Place NW, Washington 6 D.C.

*Animal Production*. Canadian Society of Animal Production. Vancouver, 24-27 June 1957.

*Bacteriology, Alimentary*. International Symposium on Alimentary Bacteriology. London, 8-12 April 1957. Prof. G. Penso, Cassella Post. 7078, Rome.

*Biochemistry*. General Assembly, International Union of Biochemistry. Vienna, 1958. Prof. R. H. J. Thompson, Dept. of Chemical Pathology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London S.E.1.

*Botany*. 9th International Botanical Congress. Montreal, 1958. Secrétariat, Congrès de Botanique, C.N.A.M. 292 rue Saint-Martin, Paris 3.

*Brewing*. 6th International Brewery Congress. Copenhagen, May 1957. Dr. F. Mendlik, European Brewery Convention, Rotterdam, PO Box 455.

*Cell Biology*. 9th International Congress of Cell Biology. St. Andrews, Scotland, 28 Aug-3 Sept 1957. Prof. H. G. Callan, Dept. of Nat. History, Bell Pettigrew Museum, The University, St. Andrews, Scotland.

*Crop Protection*. 4th International Congress of Crop Protection. Hamburg, 8-15 Sept 1957. Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Messeweg 11-12, Braunschweig, Germany.

- Crop Protection.* 9th International Symposium on Crop Protection. Ghent, 7 May 1957. Prof. J. van den Brande, State Agricultural College, Coupure Links 233, Ghent, Belgium.
- Entomology.* Entomological Society of Canada. Lethbridge, 29-31 October 1957.
- Enzyme Chemistry.* International Symposium on Enzyme Chemistry. Tokyo & Kyoto, 16-23 October 1957. Sec. of the Symposium, Science Council of Japan, Ueno Park, Tokyo.
- Fertilizers.* 6th World Congress on Chemical Fertilizers, International Centre of Chemical Fertilizers. Heidelberg, 10-15 Sept 1957. Prof. F. Angelini, Beethovenstr. 24, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Fishing Gear.* International Fishing Gear Congress (FAO). Hamburg, October 1957. FAO, Rome, Italy.
- Forest Products.* Forest Products Research Society, National meeting. Buffalo, N.Y. 24-27 June 1957. Mr. F. J. Rovsek, F.P.R.S., PO Box 2010, University Station, Madison 5, Wisconsin, USA.
- Geochemistry.* Symposium on Geochemistry (Commission of Geochemistry IUPAC) & part of meeting of Section of Inorganic Chemistry, IUPAC. Paris, 16-22 July 1957. Dr. M. Fleischer, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C.
- Milk & Food Hygiene.* International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians 44th annual meeting. Louisville, Kentucky, October 29-November 2, 1957. Further information from the associations office, 1145 19th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
- Nematology.* Congress on Nematology. Hamburg, Summer 1957. Dr. Goffart, Biologische Bundesanstalt, Grevenerstrasse, Münster, W. Germany.
- Nutrition.* 4th International Congress on Nutrition. Paris, 24-29 July 1957. Prof. E. Terroine, 17 bd. Pereire, Paris 17.
- Pesticides.* Agricultural Pesticide Society. Vancouver, 24-27 June 1957.
- Plant Pathology.* Canadian Phytopathological Society. Vancouver, 24-27 June 1957.
- Plant Physiology.* Research Conference on Plant Physiology. Hamilton, Ontario, 6-7 November 1957.
- Poultry.* 11th World's Poultry Congress. Mexico City, July-Sept 1958. Major Ian MacDougall O.B.E., N.F.U., Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1.
- Scientific Information.* An International Conference on Scientific Information is being planned to be held in Washington early in November of 1958. Sponsoring organizations are the National Science Foundation, the American Documentation Institute, and the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.
- Subjects to be covered will be grouped thus:
1. Requirements of scientists for scientific literature and refer-

ence services; knowledge now available and methods of ascertaining their requirements.

2. The function and effectiveness of abstracting and indexing services for storage and retrieval of scientific information and possible development of such services.

3. Effectiveness of scientific monographs, compendia and specialized information centers for storage and retrieval of scientific information.

4. Organization of information for storage and retrospective search. Comparative characteristics of listing systems.

5. Organization of knowledge for storage and retrospective search; conceptual and mechanical problems in the design of a new system.

6. Organization of information for storage and retrospective search. Possible development of a general theory.

7. Responsibilities of governmental bodies, professional societies, universities, and research and industrial organizations for research and training in scientific and industrial organizations for research and training in scientific documentation and for operation of scientific information services.

Participation will be limited to specialists in the field covered, who will include authors of papers accepted for inclusion in the conference programme and members of review panels. Observers will be encouraged to attend.

Individuals interested in submitting papers should communicate with the executive secretary as soon as possible, and in any case not later than Jan. 31, 1957. All requests for further information should be addressed to the executive secretary, Dr. Alberto F. Thompson, International Conference on Scientific Information, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave, Washington 25, D. C., U.S.A.

*Soil Science.* Canadian Soil Science Society. Vancouver, 24-27 June 1957.

*Trace Elements.* Symposium on trace elements in soils, plants & animals. Bristol, 10-12 April 1957. Asst. Sec., Society of Chemical Industry, 14-16 Belgrave Sq., London, S.W.1.

*Veterinary Science.* 16th International Veterinary Congress. Buenos Aires, 1957. Academia de Agronomia y Veterinaria, Sante Fe 1145, Buenos Aires.

*Zoology.* 15th International Congress of Zoology. London, 16-23 July 1958. Prof. H. R. Hewer, Imperial College of Science & Technology, London, S.W.7.

## MISCELLANEA

The agricultural press of the U.S.A.—An article on this subject in *Schrifttum der Bodenkultur* 8.1(1956), pages 1\*-3\*, entitled Die Agrarpresse der Vereinigten Staaten, will be of interest to many of our members.

The attention of members is drawn to the following agricultural exhibitions which will be held during 1957:

Würzburg, 24 August-1 September. 43rd Deutsche Weinbaukongress mit Lehr- und Industrieschau.

Keulen (Germany), 28 August-1 September. Grosse Rheinische Landwirtschaftsschau.

Stuttgart, 21 September-2 October. Landwirtschaftliche Fachausstellung Baden-Württemberg.

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# INDEX TO BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN THE U.S.D.A. 'BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE'

compiled by

RUDOLF LAUCHE and HERTHA KUS (Braunschweig)

(This item, which will be continued in future issues, is designed to guide our readers quickly to bibliographies recorded in the U.S.D.A. Bibliography. In general only bibliographies recognizable as such from their title are included. The information given is: *Column 1*, Number in U.S.D.A. Bibliography; *Column 2*, Subject; *Column 3*, Number of pages; *Column 4*, Whether published in a periodical (p) or as a monograph (m).

## II

(Volume 20 number 11, November 1956 and Volume 21 number 1, January 1957

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| 92957 | Onion: France                   | 7 m   |
| 93113 | Arundo Donax                    | 5 m   |
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| 95486 | Entomology, economic            | 306 m |
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| 97347 | Meat processing                 | 24 p  |
| 97388 | Oil from Hevea seeds            | 6 m   |
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| 4013  | Poplar   | — m   |
| 4498  | Forestry: Madison Publ.                        | 16 m  |
| 4892  | Veterinary medicine: Works of Kuleshov         | 4 p   |
| 6088  | Poultry: brucellosis                           | 4 p   |
| 7541  | Heteroptera                                    | 7 p   |
| 7872  | Orthoptera: Yugoslavia                         | 5 p   |
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| 8407  | US. Agr. Res. Serv.: Publications on food      | 64 m  |
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# PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES AND PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIANS

*(Paper presented at the Foundation Meeting of  
IAALD, Ghent, September 1955)*

BY

ANGELINA MARTINEZ (TURRIALBA)

## II

### PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIANS

The Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians<sup>1</sup> was created as a result of the Meeting of Agricultural Librarians held in Costa Rica in 1953. The delegates who attended this meeting strongly felt that an association of agricultural librarians was needed to deal more effectively with the problems facing Latin American agricultural libraries and to carry out the recommendations adopted at the meeting. A President and an Executive Secretary were elected for the newly created Association and the Secretary was assigned to prepare a draft of the Constitution and Bye-Laws for the Association. The draft of the Constitution was prepared and sent to the members who approved it by a majority vote. The Association is now in the process of collecting its dues and canvassing new members.

The Association's headquarters are located at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at the recommendation of the delegates to the meeting who saw the need for a centralized agency to supply the leadership and services required for coordinated action. The members of the Association are aware that outside financial assistance will be needed in order to undertake a sound program of activities. Possibilities for the procurement of funds are being studied and a proposal to that effect is under careful consideration.

Broadly speaking the objectives of the Association are as follows:

1. The promotion, establishment, and improvement of agricultu-

<sup>1</sup> Will be referred to as AIBA for Asociación Interamericana de Bibliotecarios Agrícolas.

ral libraries and library services.

2. The improvement of the standards of agricultural librarianship and its status as a profession.

3. The promotion of contacts (for the foregoing objects) among librarians, institutions, societies and corporate bodies engaged or interested in agricultural libraries and library services.

In order to meet these objectives the Association will have to undertake a program of work with particular emphasis on:

1. Activities related to the training of agricultural librarians and the raising of the status of agricultural librarianship as a profession.

The librarian of an agricultural institution can be classified as a 'special librarian', which implies that the library not only has a special collection and serves a special clientèle, but also renders very specialized services in the field of subject bibliography. In other words, the agricultural librarian should not only be able to handle the technical details of library management, but should also be able to assist the library clientèle in their literature searches and other bibliographical problems. This concept of librarianship, up to now foreign to most Latin American libraries, presupposes a knowledge of languages and subject matter and calls for a higher grade of service based on background education and professional training.

It appears that professional training is perhaps the first and most important step in the development of agricultural libraries. Without properly trained library personnel no progress worthy of consideration will be made. AIBA realizes that professional training is one of the key aspects to the library problem and has therefore given priority to this activity in the Association's program of work.

The Association proposes to develop a scheme having as its objective the placing of high quality personnel in the Latin American agricultural libraries through (a) encouragement of training to meet the demands of progressive library service; (b) certification of agricultural librarians to insure that all vacancies are filled with professionally trained personnel; and (c) preparation of a basic salary scale by grades according to training and experience.

The task of training agricultural librarians is no small problem. It involves two important issues:

(a) How to attract promising young men and women to be given professional library training for work in agricultural libraries throughout Latin America where conditions of parttime employment and small pay do not justify full professional education.

(b) How to equip librarians without professional training now engaged in agricultural library work with the techniques necessary to do a creditable job.



Capable and promising young adults who qualify according to North American standards of training should be sent to professional schools in the United States. AIBA should have no problem in obtaining scholarships and fellowships for all worthy candidates. The library profession needs 'leaders' and these highly trained young people would be amongst the profession's most devoted supporters.

Not all candidates would qualify for foreign study, and even if they did, not all of them would stand to benefit by it. AIBA intends to foster the development of Latin American library schools by cooperating with international agencies like UNESCO and the Pan American Union in developing new schools and improving the standards of the schools already in existence. Latin American schools should also be encouraged to offer summer and evening courses for the benefit of those already in charge of libraries who do not yet hold a professional degree.

Some means other than professional library schools must be found to prepare those workers who because of limited economic resources or inability to meet academic standards cannot take advantage of this type of training. From the educational standpoint it appears that good apprenticeship instruction would probably accomplish the job of preparing these people for the tasks that confront them in the library. Probably a sound on-the-job in-service training would be much more valuable and practical. AIBA could employ a professional librarian to spend up to a period of six months in each library where this type of apprenticeship was requested. The host institution would probably share with AIBA the expenses incurred in such a project. In-service training is offered at the Library of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

As a further means of professional improvement AIBA plans to sponsor professional meetings, workshops and institutes.

2. Activities associated with the adoption of fairly uniform technical processes.

The need for the adoption of fairly uniform technical processes can be appreciated when one realizes the diversity or lack of systems now in practice. In many instances books are classified according to size or are placed on the shelves according to accession number. Each library has tended to adopt its own method of organization, work out its own cataloging rules and lists of subject headings.

The translation of the Dewey classification scheme now being done by the Pan American Union will certainly be a great help. However, there are certain sections in Dewey that do not altogether meet the needs of agricultural libraries. One of AIBA's committees will probably undertake to study this problem and prepare a set of supplementary keys to be added to the subject field of agriculture.

A list of subject headings in Spanish adapted to agricultural libraries is urgently needed. At the Meeting of Librarians in Turrialba one of the working committees prepared a Spanish translation of the letter 'A' subject headings found in the catalog of the Library of the Institute. This project will be continued by one of the Association's permanent committees.

Studies will be made in relation to the desirability of cooperative or centralized cataloging and the preparation of a union catalog. Problems relating to the classification and arrangement of special materials like serials, photocopies, microfilms, etc. will also be studied.

The preparation of a manual on library organization and technical processes in the Spanish language is also contemplated by the Association.

3. Activities aimed at encouraging the compilation and dissemination of national agricultural bibliographies and the adoption of standard literature citations.

The lack of bibliographies and trade lists for agricultural publications in Spanish has already been discussed and its importance as an impediment to the development of agricultural libraries cannot be overemphasized.

The study of the scientific and technical communication facilities in Latin America made by Shaw, Gropp and Samper showed that none of the countries visited had a complete collection of the national publications in the field of agriculture. AIBA is in a position to lend some help in this connection by encouraging the librarians of agricultural institutions in each country to assume the responsibility for collecting and indexing all the national agricultural publications. If funds could be obtained for the publication of these national bibliographies it would mean a great advance towards increasing the research potential of all the Latin American countries. It might be possible to undertake this project in cooperation with UNESCO's national bibliographic groups which have been organized in quite a number of countries.

With the help of its members AIBA hopes to persuade the editors of Latin American agricultural journals to publish book reviews and lists of current national publications. A campaign of this nature would help in the dissemination of information regarding the output of publications in the Spanish and Portuguese languages.

A more complete coverage of publications in the Spanish and Portuguese languages is an absolute necessity. AIBA and the Institute of Inter-American Agricultural Sciences could work on a project designed to expand the bibliographical supplement to the journal *Turrialba* or put out a publication similar to the *Agricultural*

*Index or the Bibliography of Agriculture* including all the agricultural publications of the Latin American countries.

A set of rules for bibliographical citations was adopted at the meeting of agricultural librarians and has been widely distributed throughout Latin America.

4. Activities designed to promote the free flow of publications.

Although UNESCO has been working on this aspect of communications for several years now, it appears that several countries have not ratified the agreements on the free importation of printed materials and have failed to subscribe to the book coupon scheme. AIBA must work in close cooperation with UNESCO in urging the governmental authorities of the Latin American countries to ratify and subscribe to UNESCO's program.

AIBA plans to compile and publish a list of Latin American publishers and book dealers who specialize in supplying scientific and technical books particularly in the fields of agriculture and the biological sciences.

Because of the difficulties involved in the acquisition of foreign publications and the limited resources of Latin American agricultural libraries AIBA will foster the adoption of cooperative acquisitions between the libraries of one country or region.

5. Activities intended to foster the exchange of publications and inter-library loans between agricultural libraries.

The value of exchange as a method of acquisition must not be overlooked. The exchange of current and duplicate publications can yield valuable materials and its practice must be encouraged. Here again AIBA must cooperate with UNESCO by urging its members to participate in UNESCO's exchange program and take advantage of the 'Exchange' and 'Free distribution' sections of *UNESCO's Bulletin for Libraries*. Cooperative relations with the United States Book Exchange must be studied and considered.

The experience of UNESCO's program of inter-library loans in Europe should be utilized in starting a similar program in Latin America. AIBA could work closely with UNESCO's Regional Office and the Pan American Union in developing an inter-library loan code for the countries of this hemisphere.

6. Activities calculated to seek an understanding of the role of the library in an agricultural organization and the necessary support to carry out its services.

The librarian alone is not responsible for the development of his library. To a very large extent the success of the library's program depends on the interest, good will and support of its patrons. AIBA must engage the help of the serious-minded research workers, profes-

sors and students in awakening the interest of their fellow workers to the realization that the library is of primary importance in a research and teaching institution. If these men could get behind an active library promotion campaign and demand better library services for their institutions it might be possible to stir up the necessary public interest to bring about the support that is needed to improve the library services of the Latin American agricultural institutions. The need for good functional agricultural libraries must be capitalized on and AIBA must become one of the leaders behind this movement.

7. Activities meant to promote the program of the Association and to seek the means for financing its activities.

Now that the Association has adopted a Constitution and is working out a program of activities it must start a promotion campaign to gain new members and obtain the cooperation of other associations, agencies and institutions. In order to start its program of activities the Association needs financial assistance. It has been mentioned that a proposal for the procurement of funds is under consideration and will soon be presented to an interested agency.

The Association will need to maintain close relations with other library associations around the world, both international and national. The affiliation of the Association with the International Federation of Library Associations is being studied and considered. AIBA congratulates those whose efforts have made possible the establishment of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and pledges its support and cooperation to this Association.

#### MEANS OF CARRYING OUT AIBA'S PROGRAM

The success of the proposed program of activities of the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians will depend on three very important factors: (a) a strong and active executive secretary's office; (b) good national and regional organization; and (c) cooperative agreements with other international and regional organizations and agencies.

The position of Executive Secretary should be a full time job and the Secretariat at the headquarters of the Association should be provided with enough personnel and funds to be able to carry on an active program. This office should maintain close contacts with the Associations's overall program and should be able to correlate and coordinate its activities. It should keep members informed on all important matters or developments relating to the Association's program. The Secretariat should publish an official bulletin devoted to general and regional news and activities and also including other information of interest to agricultural librarians.

Recognizing that personal participation and contacts provide for the success of any organized group of individuals the Association should take into consideration the geographical proximity of members and seek to strengthen its geographical units by providing for active participation on the part of the members within any given area. For instance, Brazil is a large country with quite a few agricultural libraries. If the agricultural librarians of Brazil could organize a regional chapter of the Association in that area it would ensure greater participation of the Brazilian members in the Association's activities. These regional chapters could be encouraged to hold regional meetings and to undertake regional projects for the benefit of their individual areas.

Many of the activities of the Association will have to be undertaken in cooperation with other international agencies like UNESCO and the Pan American Union. Effective means of cooperation must be worked out. AIBA will cooperate with any library development programs already under way and will participate in any activities requiring the expansion of existing programs.

AIBA's members will not be able to convene annually or at any regular time interval to discuss and evaluate the Association's program. In its initial stages the Association will be able to call a general meeting only when funds are provided from outside sources. If some associations are kept alive because of their frequent get togethers, AIBA will have to depend on an active and effective program of activities for its survival.

*(Concluded)*

#### SUMMARY

Agricultural libraries in Latin America are inadequate to serve the needs of technicians, students, and others engaged in agricultural research, study, and extension in the various countries. This situation is due to several factors some of which are: lack of economic, cultural and social stability, false sense of nationalism, language difficulties, part-time employment, lack of facilities for serious research and study, lack of professionally trained librarians, insufficient funds for the acquisition of reading and other materials, and overcrowded and unsuitable physical facilities.

As a result of a meeting of agricultural librarians called by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in 1953, the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians was formed. The Association is working on a program of work which will include the following projects: (1) training of librarians; (2) adoption of uniform technical processes; (3) compilation and dissemination of national and Latin American agricultural bibliographies; (4) promotion of

free flow of printed materials; (5) fostering the exchange of publications and inter-library loans; (6) library campaign program aimed at obtaining the necessary support for the agricultural libraries; and (7) promotion program for the Association.

To carry out this program the Association needs a strong executive secretary's office, good national and regional organization, and cooperative agreements with other international and regional organizations and agencies.

#### RESUMÉ

Les bibliothèques techniques agricoles sont, en Amérique Latine, inadéquates pour répondre aux besoins des différents techniciens, étudiants et autres, intéressés dans l'investigation, l'extension, l'étude de l'agriculture dans les différents pays. Cette situation est due à plusieurs facteurs notamment d'ordre économiques, instabilité culturelle et sociale, nationalisme chauvin, difficultés de langage, chômage, manque de facilités pour la participation à de sérieuses études et recherches, manque de fonds pour l'achat de livres et autre matériel d'information, enfin, laboratoires, classes et salles de bibliothèque surpeuplées.

Une réunion de bibliothécaires professionnels fut organisée par l'Institut Inter-Américain de Sciences Agricoles en 1953. L'Association Inter-Américaine de Bibliothécaires Agricoles fut formée.

Cette Association travaille sur un projet lequel enferme les points suivant: (1) formation de bibliothécaires; (2) adoption d'une méthode de travail uniforme; (3) compilation et dispersion de bibliographies agricoles nationales et de l'Amérique Latine; (4) encouragement à une circulation étendue de matériel imprimé; (5) établissement d'un système d'échange de publications et de prêt inter-bibliothécaire; (6) établissement d'une campagne de propagande destinée à l'obtention de supports nécessaires pour les bibliothèques professionnelles; et (7) un programme de promotion pour l'Association.

Pour établir ce projet, l'Association a besoin d'un bon bureau d'administration, d'une bonne organisation nationale et régionale, et de la coopération d'autres agences et organisations régionales et internationales.

## CORRIGENDA

in *Quart. Bull.* 2.1 (January 1957)

Page 10 should begin with the heading Austria.

Page 28, line 1. For *agricola* read *agronómica*.

Page 33. The second heading should read: Other Reference Works.

Page 41, line 26. For 13398 read 19398.

## A NOTE ON THIS QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The editorial office is at the Library, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts., England.

Communications regarding it should be sent to Mr. D. H. Boalch at that address.

News in the field of the bibliography and documentation of agriculture and allied subjects is welcomed. Short articles (about 1500 words) and letters to the Editor will be published in the Quarterly Bulletin from time to time; these should be in English, French, German, or Spanish. Articles, in whatever language they are written, should have an English summary.

*Note:* This Quarterly Bulletin is obtainable through membership of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists. The annual subscription of 50 Swiss francs (£4.2.6d; \$12.50) for Institutes or Libraries, or 10 Swiss francs (£0.16.6d; \$2.50) for individuals, should be sent to the Treasurer, Th. P. Loosjes, Twentse Bank, Wageningen, Netherlands.

The Quarterly Bulletin is now available also to non-members of the Association at an annual subscription of 50 Swiss francs (£4.2.6d. or \$12.50, the same rate as for institutional membership), payable to the Treasurer, Th. P. Loosjes, at the address given above. The Executive Committee of the Association decided to make this arrangement because certain institutes are unable to take up membership and so are debarred from receiving the Bulletin.